

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 are pending in this application, of which claim 7 has been withdrawn from consideration and claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended. Claim 1 has been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 has been so amended and claims 4-6 have been amended to depend from claim 2 or claim 3. Claim 3 need not be amended because it depends from claim 2, which has been amended to be allowable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 2-6, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/998,912**
Response to Office Action dated November 10, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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